

NICODEMUS HISTORIC DISTRICT
A.M.E. Church, Adams and Third Streets
Nicodemus
Graham County
Kansas

HABS NO. KS-49-I

HABS
KANS,
33-NICO,
I-1

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

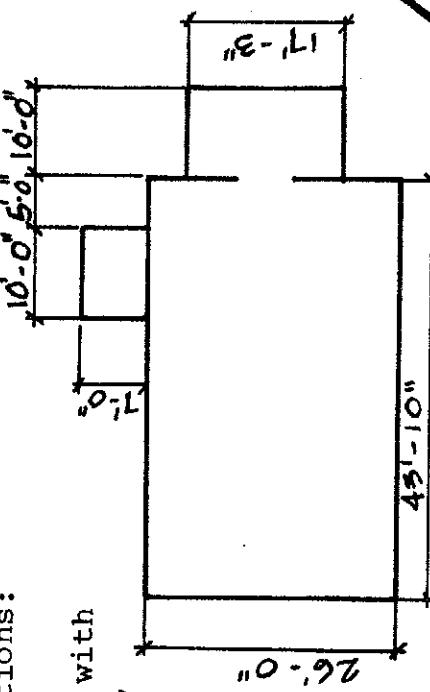
HABS/HAER INVENTORY

1. SITE I.D. NO		
2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE	A.M.E. Church	
3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)	Block 11; Lots 19-24	
4. CITY/VICINITY	Nicodemus	
12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS	Alvin Bates; Nicodemus	
5. ORIGINAL USE	2nd Baptist Church, A.M.E. Church	
6. PRESENT USE	Farm storage	
7. CLASSIFICATION		
8. UTM ZONE	1 4	4 4
SCALE	(24)	1:1885
STATE	Kansas	
COUNTY	Graham	
13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.	<p>The history of this structure evolves two church congregations: A.M.E. and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.</p> <p>The A.M.E. Church was organized on the town site in 1879, with five charter members: Charles Barter; Moses Wims and wife, Kitty; Mrs. Jeanie Fletcher; and Mary Myers. As the congregation grew, they met in various homes until enough funds were secured to build a sanctuary north of the Nicodemus school grounds. Philanthropist, J.P. Pomeroy donated \$50 for the new structure. Between May and August, 1887, a new stone and frame sanctuary was completed. No description was given. The congregation worshipped there until 1910, when they moved into an existing church structure, previously owned by the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church congregation, in Block 11. (See continuation card.)</p>	
14. CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR
15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
16. SIGNIFICANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEGRADED <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NICODEMUS HISTORIC DISTRICT, A.M.E.

HABS KANS, 33-NICO, 1-1-
CHURCH

HABS No. KS-49-1



NORTH

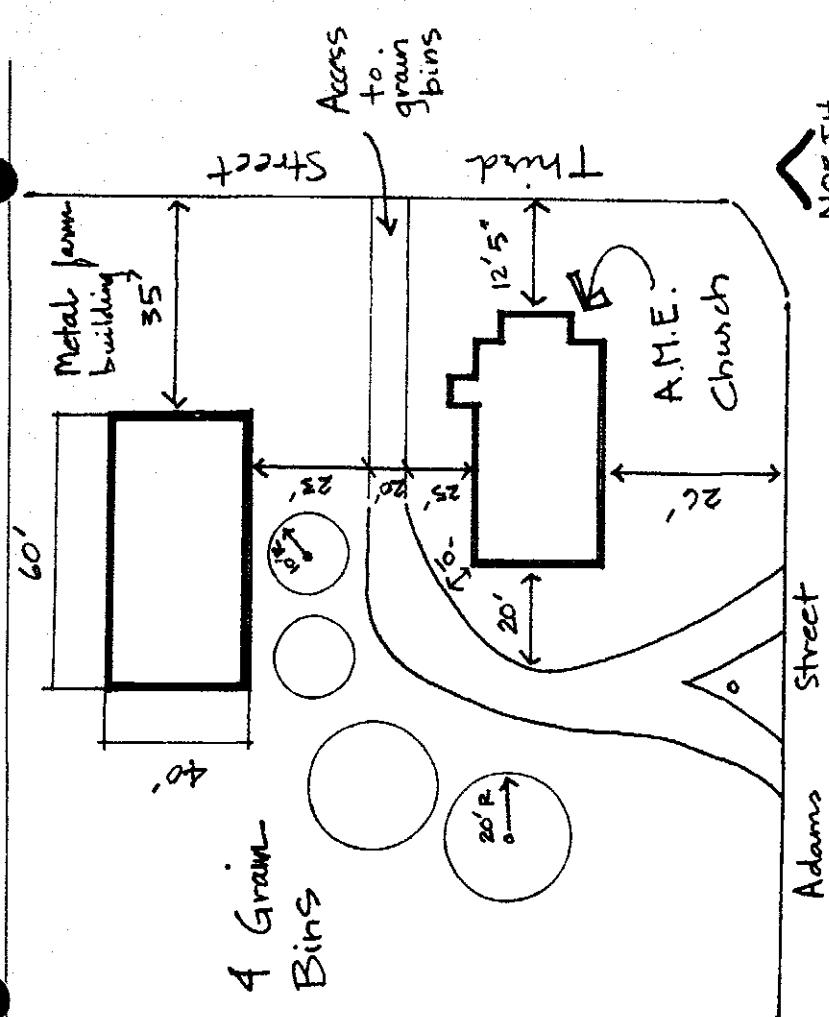
The first relatively significant stone church edifice on Nicodemus town site.

Native stone structure was built by congregation in 1885, and was considered one of the finest structures, valued at \$1,000, in 1895.

It is an outstanding example of vernacular religious building with evidence of some detailing, i.e. arched openings and vestibule. Church epidemizes the evolution of building on the town site: additions over time are distinguishable and limestone is treated with stucco to temporarily deter

(See continuation card)

17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



NICODEMUS HISTORIC DISTRICT
A.M.E. CHURCH
HABS No. KS-49-I (Page 2)

18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> NAME					
19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> YES - LIMITED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES - UNLIMITED	<input type="checkbox"/> NLR	<input type="checkbox"/> NH	<input type="checkbox"/> HABS	<input type="checkbox"/> HAER	<input type="checkbox"/> NPS	<input type="checkbox"/> STATE
	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			

20. EXISTING SURVEYS

21. REFERENCES - HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Alvin Bates - 3/84 with LBJWF

22. INVENTORIED BY

La Barbara Wigfall FLY

AFFILIATION

Nicodemus H.A.B.S.

DATE 3/84

HABS/HAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, DC 20240

1. SITE I.D. NO			
2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE			
A.M.E. Church			
3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)			
Block 11; lots 19-24			
4. CITY/VICINITY			
Nicodemus			
12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS			
Alvin Bates; Nicodemus			
13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.			
<p>In early 1920s, Rev. Joe Wilson, native son, became pastor of the A.M.E. Church and remained with the congregation until his death, in 1967. During his tenure, there were numerous improvements and additions made: in 1923, a door was constructed through a window opening on the Northeast corner of the building and a vestibule added to buffer north winds (this entry became an arched opening on the east with a small framed, arched window on the north side of vestibule); in 1931, the east entryroom was added, with bookshelves, most likely used for Sunday School. (Several of the legal books belonged to Rev. Wilson, who studied law, at one time.)</p>			
<p>Before 1940s, a large arched window on the west end of the north facade was closed; the church was wired for electricity; and the ceiling was apparently lowered, since the existing ceiling barely clears the large arched opening. By mid-1940, a parsonage, the Baxter House, in Block 2, lot 10, was included as church property. The church building was stuccoed probably after 1950, to reduce facade deterioration. When Rev. Wilson died and the congregation disbanded, Alvin Bates purchased the church and furnishings, ie. pulpit, wood railings, kneeling boards, and 30 curved wooden pews which were arranged symmetrically on either side of a center aisle. Eventually, the benches deteriorated with use by the township, in the local park. (See rear for continuation)</p>			
14. CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR
15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
16. SIGNIFICANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	
7. CLASSIFICATION			
8. UTM ZONE			
9. RATING			
10. DATE			
11. REGION			
QUAD NAME	Nicodemus, Kans.		
SCALE	1:24	1:62.5	
STATE	Kansas		
FARM STORAGE			
6. PRESENT USE			
5. ORIGINAL USE			
2nd Baptist Church; A.M.E. Church			

NICODEMUS HISTORIC DISTRICT
A.M.E. CHURCH
HABS No. KS-49-I (Page 3)

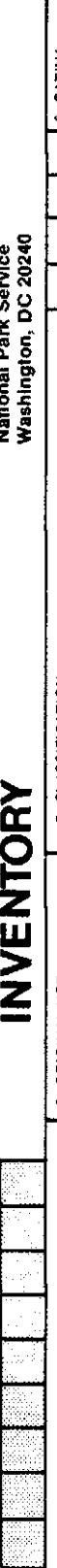
Currently, the church contains some remnants of front pulpit arrangement, including steps, railings, and some wooden folding deacon chairs. The structure is used by Mr. Alvin Bates as farm equipment storage.

18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> NAME
19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN
20. EXISTING SURVEYS	<input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> NHL	<input type="checkbox"/> HABS
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> HAER-I
		<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL	<input type="checkbox"/> HAER
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER			

Alvin Bates - 3/84 with LBJWF

22. INVENTORIED BY	La Barbara Wigfall Fly	AFFILIATION	Nicodemus H.A., B.S.
			DATE 3/84

HABS/HAER INVENTORY

1. SITE I.D. NO 	2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE A.M.E. Church	3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO) Block 11; lots 19-24	4. CITY/VICINITY Nicodemus	5. ORIGINAL USE 2nd Baptist Church; A.M.E. Church	6. PRESENT USE Farm storage	7. CLASSIFICATION Farm storage	8. UTM ZONE [Shaded box]	9. EASTING [Shaded box]	10. NORTHING [Shaded box]	11. REGION NAME QUAD Nicodemus, Kans.
12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS Alvin Bates, Nicodemus	13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC. The ruins of the early A.M.E. structure remained visible on the town site until mid-twentieth century. (NOTE: Reference is given to S.G. Wilson's stone residence (location unknown), which supposedly was converted into a church and mission school by the A.M.E. congregation in February, 1881, prior to their sanctuary completion.)	14. CONDITION EXCELLENT	15. DETERIORATED Good	16. SIGNIFICANCE FAIR	17. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT) RUINS	18. NO UNKNOWN				

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

The ruins of the early A.M.E. structure remained visible on the town site until mid-twentieth century.
(NOTE: Reference is given to S.G. Wilson's stone residence (location unknown), which supposedly was converted into a church and mission school by the A.M.E. congregation in February, 1881, prior to their sanctuary completion.)

Occurring during the 1880s, there was a split in the First Baptist Church congregation and a less fortunate group of members expanded the existing Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church congregation. As the congregation grew, they aspired to build a sanctuary. In 1885, they built a native rock church structure on lots 19-24, in Block 11, only one block east and one block south of the parent church, First Baptist Church. The one story, native limestone structure with simple gable roof was less dominant on the landscape and more vernacular in style than the First Baptist Church. In 1895, census showed this building was valued at \$1,000. In 1908, the Baptist State Convention voted to transfer lots 19-24 to the A.M.E. Church due to the decline of the congregation, but the A.M.E. congregation did not occupy the building until circa 1910. (See continuation card.)

NICODEMUS HISTORIC DISTRICT
A.M.E. CHURCH
HABS No. KS-49-I (Page 5)

16. SIGNIFICANCE

Facade and structural deterioration. Sanctuary was utilized by two different pioneer congregations. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church congregation and later, the African Methodist Episcopal Church congregation. Presently used as farm equipment storage by local resident.

17. PHOTO SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION

NICODEMUS HISTORIC DISTRICT
A.M.E. CHURCH
HABS No. KS-49-I (Page 6)

18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> NAME
19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED	<input type="checkbox"/> NR
	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> NHL
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY
			<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> HAER
			<input type="checkbox"/> HAER-1
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
			<input type="checkbox"/> NPS
			<input type="checkbox"/> STATE

21. REFERENCES--HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Alvin Bates - 3-84 with LBJWF

22. INVENTORIED BY	La Barbara Wigfall Fly	AFFILIATION	Nicodemus H.A.B.S.
		DATE	3 / 84

AFFILIATION

DATE

3 / 84

PAGE

6